THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYA SAGAR RAO) : (a) and (b) Delhi Police has been making concerted efforts to prevent incidents of crime in the National Capital Territory as a result of which the crime rate in the National Capital Territory of Delhi has registered a decline of 9.52% in the year 1999 as compared to the preceding year.

(c) "Public Order" and "Police" being State subjects as per the Constitution of India, the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is essentially the responsibility of the State Government concerned.

Protecting the Lives of Ordinary Citizens in Kashmir

2810. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agree that the recent brutal massacre of 36 Sikhs in Kashmir has exposed that the Central and State Government have failed to protect the lives of ordinary citizens;

(b) whether any urgent measures have been taken to instil confidence among the people and provide them with adequate security; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) to (c) Gruesome killing of 35 innocent citizens belonging to Sikh Community in Chattisinghpura village is a cowardly act perpetrated by the Pak supported terrorists. Security forces immediately launched operations to apprehend the terrorists involved in the massacre. A local resident of Chattisinghpura was arrested for participating in the carnage, and the security forces conducted raids on terrorist hideouts resulting in the killing of a number of terrorists, alleged to have participated in the incident. The security forces have already strengthened the security arrangements in the Sikh inhabited villages in the valley by *inter alia* providing security pickets. It has also been decided to set up village defence committees in such Sikh villages, where sufficient volunteers are available.

Prosecution of Chief Minister of Bihar

2811 . SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :